

## **The American Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces**

The American Consulate General in Jerusalem, the Office of the U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Office of Assistance Coordination (NEA/AC) are pleased to announce the eleventh year of its Leaders for

Democracy Fellowship (LDF) program. This program advances reform efforts in the Middle East and North Africa by providing emerging civic leaders and democracy activists with the opportunity to spend three months in the United States (for high-proficiency English speakers) to

gain academic skills and practical experience as well as networking opportunities with like-minded peers and professionals.

The LDF program will take place in the United States from February to May 2017. Fellows chosen to participate in the English language program will travel to the United States, where they will attend a five week academic component at the University of Virginia (UVA) in Charlottesville, Virginia.

This project provides emerging and mid-career civic leaders from the Middle East and North Africa with the opportunity to complete the academic training at the University of Virginia (UVA) and gain relevant professional experience via an internship within a host organization in the Washington, D.C. area.

To promote program sustainability and create a multiplier effect, participants will create and implement follow-on projects in their home communities. Action plans for the follow-on projects will be developed and finalized throughout the course of the program.

**Academic Component:** The LDF program begins with five weeks of academic training on leadership, peace and conflict mitigation, comparative politics, civic engagement, advocacy, communication, and change management, among other topics. Fellows are expected to be active participants in all seminars, workshops and activities including theoretical debates and active skills-building sessions. Fellows are also expected to participate in group work, lead discussions and make presentations to the other Fellows in their cohort and to the broader UVA community.

**Internship Component:** After completing the academic portion of the program, each participant will engage in a nine-week practicum placement within a relevant non-governmental or public policy organization in the Washington, D.C. area. Through this component, participants will gain practical work experience and learn about the ways that such organizations interact with government and civil society. Fellows will also gain valuable

knowledge, experience, skills and further professional contacts to benefit their respective professional pursuits back home. For each Fellow, the internship component will culminate in the development and finalization of a project or deliverable of benefit to both the Fellow and the organization. These will be presented and shared with the rest of the cohort at the end of the component.

#### Participant Qualifications

- a) s/he is between the age of 25-35 years old at the time of the program
- b) s/he has at least five years of experience working as a professional in a field related to one of the program's primary themes (leadership, democracy and governance, civic engagement, communication and advocacy, or peace and conflict transformation)
- c) s/he has demonstrated a strong commitment and desire to remain working in this field for the foreseeable future and an equal commitment to being a leader of positive change within his or her own country;
- d) s/he has exhibited leadership skills over time and the capacity to apply the experiences and opportunities presented in this program in a project that will benefit an organization, sector, or specific community upon her/his return;
- e) s/he has strong English language fluency sufficient to function successfully in a high-level academic as well as professional environment;
- f) s/he has at least a bachelor's degree and the demonstrated ability to succeed in a demanding and intensive academic environment;
- g) s/he demonstrates tolerance and a desire to work collaboratively with a diverse cohort of peers irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, religion, political views and socioeconomic status; and
- h) s/he has not already completed a similar academic degree or internship in the United States, and is not subject to J-visa restrictions.

#### **Important Note:**

- Participation in the LDF program is contingent upon the applicant qualifying for a J-1 visa to the U.S.
- Holders of American passports or green cards are **not eligible to participate** in this program.

#### **Application deadline and inquiries:**

**Deadline for application:** November 4, 2016

The Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program application is available online at <https://ldf.fluidreview.com/>

**Inquiries**

**Jerusalem and West Bank Applicants:** Please send an email to [jerusalemexchanges@state.gov](mailto:jerusalemexchanges@state.gov) and [MEPIJerusalem@state.gov](mailto:MEPIJerusalem@state.gov) or call 02-622-7107 for more information or should you have any questions.

**Gaza Applicants:** Please send an email to [Gazaexchanges@gmail.com](mailto:Gazaexchanges@gmail.com) and [MEPIJerusalem@state.gov](mailto:MEPIJerusalem@state.gov) or call 08-286-4623 for more information or should you have any questions.